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Mighty Prevailing Prayer: Experiencing the Power of Answered Prayer

15. Chapter 12: Importunity Prevails

This chapter argues that persistent, pleading prayer (importunity) is one of God's chief tools of grace. It explains why God delays answers, what importunity costs the one who prays, and why repeating a request to God is right, not irreverent.

Key takeaways

- Importunity shapes Christlike character—patience, humility, and stronger faith—as shown in Moses at Sinai.
- Intercession is the most Christlike service, and importunity is its highest form.
- Bold, persistent prayer secures answers that no other prayer obtains; it overcomes impossible odds.
- Prevailing prayer is real toil—physically and emotionally draining, a 'bleeding sacrifice.' It costs, but it is worth the cost.
- Repeating a request to God is not unbelief. Jesus repeated Himself in Gethsemane; we may ask again and again until the need is met.

Passages worth keeping

“The highest exercise and the glory of prayer is that persevering importunity can prevail and obtain what God at first could not and would not give.”

Andrew Murray's core claim—why persistence matters.

“All vital praying makes a drain on a man's vitality. True intercession is a sacrifice, a bleeding sacrifice.”

Jowett on the real cost of prevailing prayer.

How it connects

The chapter ties our persistence to 'filling up' Christ's sufferings—prayer that shares in Gethsemane rather than costing us nothing.

Scripture referenced

- **Luke 22:44** -- Jesus' agonized prayer in the garden, sweat like blood—the model of costly importunity.